

# THE PALA CIVIL TIMES



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## P2. NATIONAL



### From borderland to India's strategic resource frontier -

Critical mineral exploration is reshaping the North-East as a strategic resource frontier.

## P4. INTERNATIONAL



### India, Indonesia review bilateral ties as Jaishankar meets his counterpart -

India and Indonesia are deepening cooperation in defence, maritime security, energy and strategic autonomy.

## P8 ECONOMICS



### Govt. plans to induct 2,800 low-floor e-buses under PM E-DRIVE scheme -

PM E-DRIVE is accelerating the electrification of urban public transport through large-scale deployment of electric buses

## Editor's Note

It is another week and a host of important developments await the reader. In today's edition of the Pala Civil Times, we take a look at the latest developments from India and around the world. Closer home, the North-East is acquiring a new strategic significance as critical mineral exploration reshapes the region from a border frontier into a resource frontier.

Beyond the neighbourhood, attention turns to Indonesia, a key Indo-Pacific partner, as Indian and Indonesian ministers review cooperation in defence, maritime security, energy and trade ahead of Prime Minister Modi's expected visit. On the judicial front, India has highlighted the idea of Swadeshi Jurisprudence, combining technological innovation with constitutional values through efforts to build an indigenous AI ecosystem for the judiciary.

Decoded editorials this week examine what the latest GDP and NFHS-6 data reveal about the economy and public health. We also look at India's push towards cleaner urban mobility through electric buses and the PM E-DRIVE scheme, alongside emerging discussions on agricultural diversification towards millets and oilseeds in the face of rainfall and fertiliser uncertainties.

So, let us dive in—one topic at a time.

## Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU

### Testing times



Latest GDP data reflects strong growth alongside emerging structural concerns

The Indian EXPRESS

### Rain & fertiliser shortfall can be an opportunity



Emerging rainfall and fertiliser risks are creating opportunities for diversification towards millets, pulses and oilseeds.

BusinessLine

### Healthy data



NFHS-6 factsheets provide an initial snapshot, while the complete picture will emerge through the detailed national report.



## From borderland to India's strategic resource frontier

In recent weeks, official platforms of the Ministry of Mines have described northeastern States such as Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Mizoram as “mineral” or “resource-rich frontiers”, highlighting their strategic resource potential. This shift coincides with the growing importance of critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, graphite, nickel, vanadium and rare earth elements, which are essential for batteries, semiconductors, renewable energy technologies and defence systems. As India seeks to reduce import dependence and strengthen supply-chain security, exploration efforts have expanded significantly, with the Geological Survey of India undertaking 43 critical mineral projects across northeastern States during recent field seasons.

### Changing significance of Northeast

Traditionally, the Northeast occupied a strategic place in national policy primarily through the lens of border security, insurgency management and connectivity. Today, resource security is increasingly being added to this framework, transforming the region from a **sensitive borderland into a strategic economic asset**. The idea of a “frontier” reflects a vision of territories as spaces for integration, development and extraction. The challenge is that these landscapes are already shaped by customary land systems, local institutions and deep social ties to territory. In regions such as Manipur, where political tensions, displacement and debates over land continue, resource projects can acquire meanings that extend far beyond economic development.

### What lies ahead

Going forward, India's pursuit of critical minerals must balance national strategic priorities with local aspirations. The Northeast requires infrastructure, employment and investment, but resource development that advances faster than institutions capable of managing its social and ecological consequences risks generating new tensions. Building trust will require transparent decision-making, meaningful community participation, recognition of customary land rights, environmental safeguards and equitable sharing of benefits. The long-term success of any resource policy will depend not only on what lies beneath the region's hills, but also on whether local communities are included as stakeholders in shaping its future.

#### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) What are the major challenges to internal security and peace process in the North-Eastern States? Map the various peace accords and agreements initiated by the government in the past decade. (GS III - 2025)

Q. Consider the following statements: (2025)

I. India has joined the Minerals Security Partnership as a member.

II. India is a resource-rich country in all the 30 critical minerals that it has identified.

III. The Parliament in 2023 has amended the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 empowering the Central Government to exclusively auction mining lease and composite license for certain critical minerals. Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) I and II only  
 (b) II and III only  
 (c) I and III only  
 (d) I, II and III

### STATIC CORE LINKAGE

Critical minerals have emerged as strategic resources, essential for semiconductors, batteries, renewable energy systems, telecommunications, transport and defence manufacturing.

- India identified 30 Critical Minerals in 2023 – lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, rare earth elements (REEs) – to strengthen supply-chain security & clean energy transition.
- Exploration activity in the Northeast has accelerated, with the Geological Survey of India undertaking **43 critical mineral exploration projects** across northeastern states during the 2022–23, 2023–24 and 2024–25 field seasons.
- Key minerals being explored in the region include **graphite, vanadium, lithium, rare earth elements, nickel and cobalt**.
- Recent projects in **Manipur** focus on **nickel, cobalt and chromium**.
- The MMDR (Amendment) Act, 2023 introduced the Exploration Licence (EL), a new mineral concession granted through auction for reconnaissance and prospecting of 29 critical and deep-seated minerals.
- The National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) 2025 is India's roadmap for securing domestic resources and overseas supply chains of critical minerals.

#### RELEVANCE

**GS I : Distribution of key natural resources across the world**

## Efforts on to establish AI ecosystem for the judiciary, says CJI

Speaking on "Safeguarding Justice in the Age of AI", Chief Justice of India Surya Kant emphasised that technology should serve as an aid to judicial reasoning rather than replace independent human judgment. He highlighted the judiciary's efforts to develop a distinctly Indian or "Swadeshi Jurisprudence" that reflects India's constitutional values, institutional realities, linguistic diversity and social conditions. The approach seeks to ensure that technological adoption in courts remains rooted in domestic needs rather than relying solely on imported technological models.

### Key Developments in Judicial Technology


Under the e-Courts Mission Mode Project, the judiciary has launched major digital initiatives such as "One Case One Data" and the AI-powered chatbot "Su Sahaya". The former seeks to create a unified digital identity for cases across all levels of courts, enabling seamless case tracking and better coordination. The latter provides litigants with information on court procedures and services through a user-friendly interface. Together, these reforms aim to streamline case management, reduce procedural delays and make judicial services more accessible.

### Way Forward

Artificial Intelligence can process vast volumes of legal information, improve case management and enhance citizen access to courts, making it a valuable tool for judicial administration. However, the judiciary has underlined that AI cannot replace human judgment, constitutional morality or judicial discretion. Going forward, India aims to build an indigenous AI ecosystem tailored to its legal and social context. The challenge will be to combine technological efficiency with transparency, accountability, privacy safeguards and constitutional principles, ensuring that AI strengthens rather than undermines justice delivery.

**BRAIN BOOSTERS** #246  
12-05-2026

Did You Know?



**One Case One Data**

Why in news? The Chief Justice of India, Surya Kant, announced two major digital initiatives on 11 May 2026 aimed at modernising India's judicial system: the "One Case One Data" initiative and the AI-powered chatbot "Su Sahaya".

- The "One Case One Data" initiative aims to create a unified and integrated judicial database across the country.
- "Su Sahaya" is an Artificial Intelligence-based chatbot developed by the National Informatics Centre to provide citizens and litigants with user-friendly guidance.
- Technology-based judicial reforms like "Su Sahaya" portal and "One Case One Data" are aimed at improving speed, transparency, and accessibility.
- According to the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG), more than 5 crore cases are pending across the courts in India - 88% in District courts and 12% in High Courts.
- Judicial delays affect **Access to justice, Rights of undertrials, Ease of doing business, Public confidence in institutions, and Delivery of constitutional rights.**

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### Why Judicial Digitalisation Matters

The push for technology-driven reforms comes amid a severe judicial pendency crisis, with over **five crore cases pending across Indian courts and more than 93,000 cases before the Supreme Court alone**. Delays affect access to justice, rights of undertrials, ease of doing business and public confidence in institutions. Combined with India's low judge-population ratio, these challenges have strengthened the case for leveraging digital technologies and AI to improve efficiency, transparency and accessibility within the justice delivery system.

#### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) "Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy." Comment. (GS II - 2023)

### PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. With reference to the concept of "Swadeshi Jurisprudence", consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to develop legal-technological frameworks rooted in India's constitutional and social realities.
2. It advocates complete rejection of foreign technological models in judicial administration.
3. It recognises India's linguistic diversity and institutional conditions while adopting technology.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

#### RELEVANCE

GS II : Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary

## India, Indonesia review bilateral ties as Jaishankar meets his counterpart

Ahead of Prime Minister Modi's expected visit to Indonesia, the 8th India-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting reviewed cooperation across defence, maritime security, trade, investment, healthcare, digital technology, energy, connectivity, space, education and culture. The meeting followed Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's January 2025 visit to India as Republic Day Chief Guest. Both sides reaffirmed commitment to deeper bilateral cooperation and greater coordination in regional and multilateral forums, reflecting renewed political momentum after a four-year gap in the Joint Commission process.

### Evolution and Significance

India and Indonesia elevated ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018, building on shared maritime geography, historical links and commitment to strategic autonomy. Cooperation has expanded through coordinated naval patrols, maritime exercises, defence dialogue and Indo-Pacific collaboration. Both countries support a rules-based maritime order, freedom of navigation and adherence to international law. As major Indo-Pacific democracies and influential Global South voices, they increasingly view each other as important partners for regional stability, connectivity and economic resilience.

### What Lies Ahead

The next phase of the partnership is expected to move from maritime cooperation to deeper defence-industrial collaboration. Opportunities exist in shipbuilding, coastal defence systems, radar technology, UAVs, defence manufacturing and critical minerals supply chains. However, differing strategic priorities, protectionist policies and technology-transfer concerns may limit rapid progress. A gradual approach based on pilot projects, joint production and knowledge-sharing could strengthen regional self-reliance while positioning India and Indonesia as key middle-power partners in the Indo-Pacific.

## STATIC CORE LINKAGE

**2002** – Launch of IND-INDO CORPAT (Coordinated Patrols).

**2018** – India and Indonesia upgraded ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

**2018** – First Samudra Shakti bilateral naval exercise.

**2023** – Fourth edition of Samudra Shakti conducted.

January 2025 – Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto visits India as Republic Day Chief Guest.

7 January 2025 – Indonesia becomes the first Southeast Asian member of BRICS.

2026 – 8th India-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting held ahead of PM Modi's expected Indonesia visit.

**Malacca Strait Patrol** – Regional maritime security mechanism.

**IFC-IOR** – Maritime domain awareness and information sharing.

Both nations coordinate closely in major multilateral forums such as the **G20, ASEAN-led mechanisms, BRICS, Indian Ocean Rim Association**, and on Indo-Pacific platforms, where they promote strategic autonomy, maritime security, Global South priorities and a rules-based international order.



### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



PYQ  
COMPASS

Q. India is a member of which among the following?

1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
2. Association of South-East Asian Nations
3. East Asia Summit.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

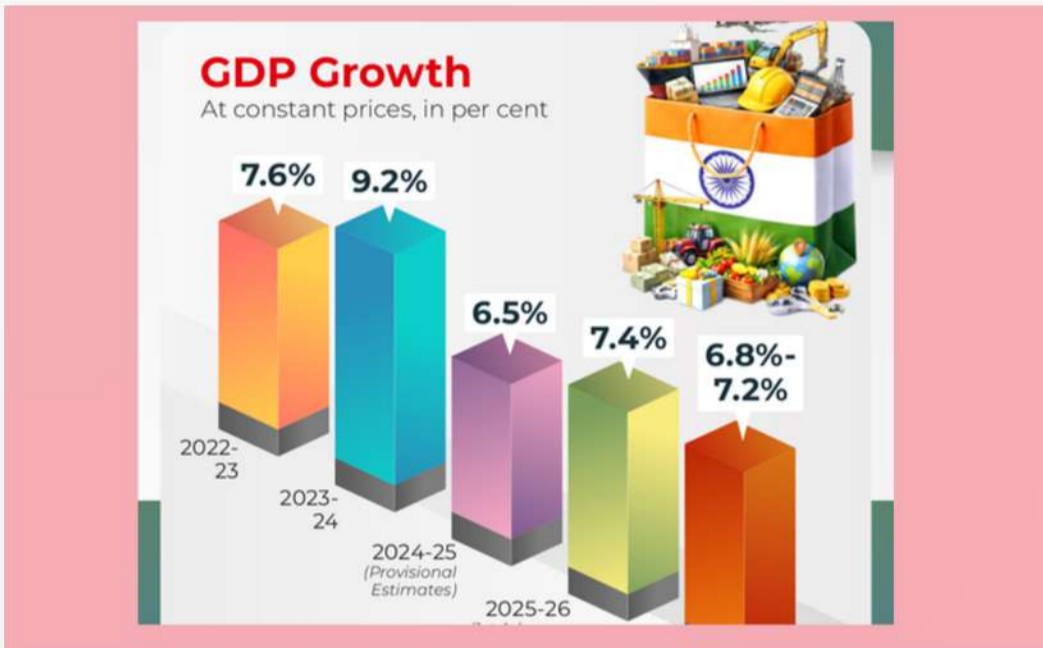
- a) 1 and 2 only b) 3 only c) 1, 2 and 3 d) India is a member of none of them

## RELEVANCE

**GS II : India and its neighborhood- relations.**

## Testing times (The Hindu : 08-06-2026)

India's provisional GDP growth for 2025-26 has been estimated at 7.7%, marginally higher than the 7.6% projected earlier, reflecting the economy's resilience despite existing global uncertainties. The data indicate that the initial impact of the West Asia crisis did not significantly affect overall annual growth. Several key sectors, including manufacturing and services, recorded double-digit growth on a relatively high base. Encouragingly, both Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) and Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) grew faster than in the previous year, suggesting a revival in household demand and investment activity, which are critical drivers of sustainable economic expansion.



### Structural Concerns Beneath the Headline Numbers

Compared to 4.2% in the previous year, agricultural growth slowed to 3% in 2025-26, despite a favourable monsoon that reached 108% of the Long Period Average (LPA). This raises concerns given forecasts of a weaker monsoon and possible fertilizer supply disruptions in the coming year. The figures also highlight the growing dominance of the services sector, whose share in Gross Value Added (GVA) increased to 54.3%, while agriculture's share declined below 20%. Meanwhile, manufacturing's share remained largely stagnant, indicating persistent challenges in expanding value-added industrial production and generating quality employment.

### Outlook and Policy Challenges Ahead

Looking ahead, policymakers and economists broadly expect economic growth to moderate during 2026-27. The Reserve Bank of India has projected growth at 6.6%, a view that has also been acknowledged by the government. Unlike the tariff-related disruptions that tested India's export resilience in the previous year, the coming months are likely to be shaped by energy supply uncertainties arising from geopolitical tensions in West Asia. These risks could affect inflation, industrial production and external balances. The challenge before policymakers will be to sustain consumption and investment momentum, strengthen agricultural resilience, support manufacturing growth and respond swiftly to evolving global supply-side disruptions.

## PRACTICE QUESTION

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The services sector accounted for more than half of India's Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2025-26.
2. Agriculture's share in GVA increased between 2022-23 and 2025-26.
3. Manufacturing's share in GVA remained largely unchanged during the period.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. With reference to Indian economy, consider the following statements: (2015)

1. The rate of growth of Real Gross Domestic Product has steadily increased in the last decade.
  2. The Gross Domestic Product at market prices (in rupees) has steadily increased in the last decade.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
- a) 1 only
  - b) 2 only
  - c) Both 1 and 2
  - d) Neither 1 nor 2

### RELEVANCE

**GS II : Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization, of resources, growth, development and employment.**

## Rain & fertiliser shortfall can be an opportunity (Indian Express : 08-06-2026)

India's farm sector benefited from two consecutive years of above-normal monsoons, but the outlook for 2026 is less favourable. A developing El Niño, below-normal monsoon forecasts and potential fertiliser supply disruptions linked to the West Asia conflict could particularly affect the upcoming rabi season. However, these challenges also create an opportunity to encourage a shift towards crops that require less water and fertiliser, thereby improving the long-term sustainability and resilience of Indian agriculture.

### Millets as a Climate-Resilient Alternative

Millets, recognised internationally through the International Year of Millets 2023, are well suited to conditions of rainfall uncertainty. They are nutritious, climate-resilient and require fewer inputs than crops such as rice and wheat. India is the world's largest millet producer, contributing over 38% of global output. Government initiatives such as the Sub-Mission on Nutri-Cereals under the National Food Security Mission and support through PM RKVY are promoting millet cultivation, improved seeds, resource-efficient technologies and crop diversification across states.

### Oilseeds and Reducing Import Dependence

India's growing edible oil demand has led to substantial import dependence, with vegetable oil imports reaching record levels. Expanding domestic oilseed cultivation offers an opportunity to improve nutritional security, strengthen farmer incomes and reduce import vulnerability. Oilseeds already occupy a significant share of cropped area and agricultural exports, but much of their cultivation remains rainfed. Increasing productivity through targeted support and diversification could help bridge the gap between domestic production and consumption while making agriculture more resilient to external shocks.

## PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



PYQ  
 COMPASS  
 UPSC PREVIOUS YEARS QUESTION

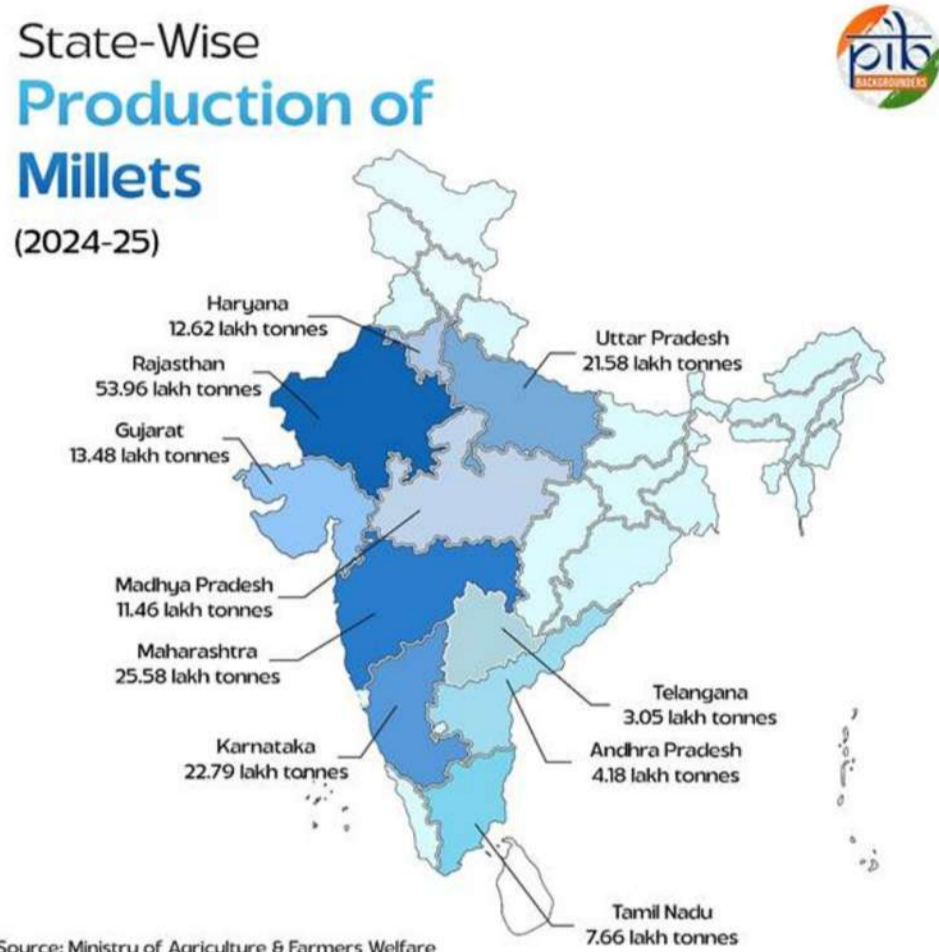
Q.) How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past?

Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption.

(GS III - 2018)

### RELEVANCE

GS III : Major crops-cropping patterns in various parts of the country



### Way Forward

The current situation highlights the need to align agricultural policy with resource efficiency. Assured remunerative prices for millets, pulses and oilseeds, combined with more efficient use of water and fertilisers, can encourage farmers to diversify away from highly input-intensive crops. It would reduce pressure on scarce resources, improve climate resilience, enhance nutritional outcomes and lower import dependence. The twin challenges of uncertain rainfall and fertiliser constraints can become a catalyst for building a more sustainable and diversified agricultural sector.

## Healthy data (TH BusinessLine : 08-06-2026)

The sixth National Family Health Survey (NFHS-6), conducted between May 2023 and December 2024 across 6.79 lakh households in 715 districts, indicates continued improvement in several health and demographic indicators. Institutional deliveries, child immunisation, maternal health, breastfeeding practices and nutritional outcomes have improved since NFHS-5. The survey also introduced new indicators relating to financial inclusion, elderly population and vaccination coverage. However, the preliminary factsheet contains 101 indicators compared to 131 in NFHS-5, triggering debate over the absence of several traditionally tracked parameters.



### Missing Indicators & Government Reasoning

Some parameters, such as anaemia, were excluded because concerns were raised regarding the reliability of capillary blood sampling used in previous surveys; a separate survey by the ICMR using venous blood sampling has been proposed. Other indicators, including sanitation, clean cooking fuel coverage, mortality and birth registration, are already monitored through specialised systems such as the Sample Registration System (SRS), Civil Registration System (CRS), Census and administrative databases. Additionally, indicators related to family planning, HIV, child health interventions and women's health are expected to be included in the detailed NFHS-6 report.

### Significance

The debate around NFHS-6 highlights the challenge of balancing data quality, avoiding duplication and ensuring comprehensive public access to health information. While the government argues that specialised surveys provide more authoritative data for certain indicators, experts emphasise the value of a comprehensive dataset that allows cross-verification and holistic policy assessment. Timely release of the detailed report and public access to unit-level data will be important for researchers, policymakers and programme evaluation. Ultimately, NFHS remains a critical tool for evidence-based policymaking and monitoring India's health and demographic transition.

#### Key Data Systems

**NFHS** – Household health and demographic survey.

**SRS (Sample Registration System)** – Mortality and fertility statistics.

**CRS (Civil Registration System)** – Birth and death registration.

**Census** – Population characteristics.

**ICMR** – Proposed anaemia survey using improved methodology.

#### PYQ Compass

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q.) With reference to Indian economy, consider the following: (2015)

1. Bank rate
2. Open market operations
3. Public debt
4. Public revenue

Which of the above is/are component/components of Monetary Policy?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4
- c) 1 and 2
- d) 1, 3 and 4

### PRACTICE QUESTION

Consider the following statements regarding NFHS-6:

1. The absence of certain indicators from the NFHS-6 factsheet necessarily implies that the data were not collected.
2. Some indicators were omitted because they are tracked through specialised national data systems.
3. Certain indicators are expected to appear in the detailed NFHS-6 report to be released subsequently.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

#### RELEVANCE

**GS II : Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector relating to Health**

## Govt. plans to induct 2,800 low-floor e-buses under PM E-DRIVE scheme

The Delhi government has announced the induction of 2,800 air-conditioned low-floor electric buses under the Centre's PM E-DRIVE scheme to strengthen public transport and promote sustainable mobility. The fleet will include 1,400 nine-metre and 1,400 twelve-metre e-buses, with a focus on improving connectivity in underserved and peripheral areas. The initiative forms part of Delhi's broader plan to expand its bus fleet to nearly 14,000 buses by 2028-29, reflecting a growing shift towards electrified urban transportation.

### PM E-DRIVE as the Policy Framework

The **PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)** scheme serves as the Centre's flagship programme for accelerating electric vehicle adoption. It is the Centre's flagship scheme for promoting electric mobility, succeeding the earlier FAME programme. With an outlay of **₹10,900 crore** and an extended implementation period beyond March 2026, **the scheme provides incentives for electric two-wheelers, three-wheelers, buses, trucks and ambulances.** It also allocates ₹2,000 crore for charging infrastructure development. The scheme aligns with national goals of clean mobility, reduced fossil-fuel dependence, energy security, net-zero commitments and the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

### Significance for Mobility & Energy Transition

The expansion of electric public transport can reduce urban air pollution, lower fuel consumption and improve commuter convenience. It also supports India's broader energy transition by reducing dependence on imported crude oil and strengthening sustainable urban mobility. The initiative comes at a time when India's EV market is steadily expanding, with passenger EV penetration crossing 5% and electric two-wheelers approaching a 6.5% market share. Large-scale deployment of e-buses can further accelerate adoption and enhance public confidence in electric mobility.

### Way Forward

Despite policy support, the EV ecosystem continues to face challenges related to charging infrastructure and interoperability. India currently has nearly 29,000 charging stations, but significant expansion is still required to support large-scale adoption. Fragmented charging standards, proprietary mobile applications and differing charging technologies create barriers for users. Going forward, interoperable charging networks, wider last-mile charging access, greater utilisation of Oil Marketing Company infrastructure and expansion of solar-powered charging stations will be critical to ensuring that infrastructure growth keeps pace with India's EV ambitions.

**BRAIN BOOSTERS** # 231 21-05-2026

Did You Know?



**PM E-DRIVE SCHEME**


**Why in news?** The Union Government recently approved proposals for installing more than 1,200 EV charging stations in Karnataka under the PM E-DRIVE Scheme.

**PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE)**

- It aims to accelerate Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption by providing demand incentives for EV purchases, expanding charging infrastructure, and strengthening the domestic EV manufacturing ecosystem.
- PM E-DRIVE provides subsidies for electric two-wheelers, electric three-wheelers, e-ambulances, e-trucks, and e-buses.
- It further supports clean mobility transition, reduced fossil fuel imports, energy security, net-zero commitments, and the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- It has a financial outlay of ₹ 10,900 crore.
- It was originally operated from October 2024 to March 2026.
- It has been extended by two years to continue supporting EV adoption.

**PYQ Compass**

UPSC questions previously asked from the themes discussed on this page.



Q. How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development in India? (GS I - 2019)

Q. Do you think India will meet 50 percent of its energy needs from renewable energy by 2030? Justify your answer. How will the shift of subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables help achieve the above objective? (GS III - 2023)

**PRACTICE QUESTION**

Q.) Consider the following statements regarding India's EV ecosystem:

1. PM E-DRIVE provides demand incentives through upfront price reductions, with manufacturers later reimbursed by the government.
2. Rapid DC fast chargers can significantly reduce charging time for EVs.
3. Solar-powered charging stations can strengthen the environmental benefits of EV adoption.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 2 and 3 only  
(c) 1 and 3 only  
(d) 1, 2 and 3

### RELEVANCE :

**GS III : Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways etc.**

## Practice Questions and answers

**Q.** With reference to the concept of "Swadeshi Jurisprudence", consider the following statements:

1. It seeks to develop legal-technological frameworks rooted in India's constitutional and social realities.
2. It advocates complete rejection of foreign technological models in judicial administration.
3. It recognises India's linguistic diversity and institutional conditions while adopting technology.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only**

**Statement 1 is correct :** The judiciary is exploring the use of AI and digital tools in a manner that reflects India's constitutional values, Federal and institutional structure, Social diversity, Local legal practices and Indian conditions of access to justice. Thus, "Swadeshi Jurisprudence" seeks to create an Indian framework for judicial technology rather than blindly adopting foreign models.

**Statement 2 is Incorrect.** Modern judicial systems increasingly learn from one another through Comparative constitutional law, Digital court practices, AI-assisted legal research, and Global judicial cooperation. The CJI specifically observed that technology has brought judicial systems across the world into closer conversation.

**Statement 3 is correct.** The CJI explicitly linked Swadeshi Jurisprudence to India's Linguistic diversity, Institutional realities, and Social conditions

This is particularly important because India's judiciary functions across Multiple languages, Different court levels, Diverse socio-economic backgrounds and Vast geographical regions Therefore, any indigenous judicial AI ecosystem must accommodate these realities.

**Q.** Consider the following statements regarding anaemia estimates in NFHS-6:

1. Anaemia estimates were excluded because concerns were raised regarding the reliability of capillary blood sampling.
2. The capillary blood sampling method involves venous blood collection from veins.
3. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is expected to conduct a separate survey using venous blood sampling.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only**

**Statement 1 is correct.** NFHS-6 did not report anaemia estimates in its preliminary factsheet because concerns were raised about the accuracy of the capillary blood sampling (finger-prick) method used in previous rounds. Studies suggested that this method could produce distorted haemoglobin readings, affecting the reliability of anaemia estimates.

**Statement 2 is incorrect.** Capillary blood sampling involves collecting a small blood sample through a finger-prick, whereas venous blood sampling involves drawing blood directly from a vein using a syringe or needle. The statement incorrectly equates the two methods.

**Statement 3 is correct.** To obtain more reliable anaemia estimates, the government has indicated that the ICMR will undertake a separate survey using venous blood sampling.

## Practice Questions and answers

Q. Consider the following statements regarding India's EV ecosystem:

1. PM E-DRIVE provides demand incentives through upfront price reductions, with manufacturers later reimbursed by the government.
2. Rapid DC fast chargers can significantly reduce charging time for EVs.
3. Solar-powered charging stations can strengthen the environmental benefits of EV adoption.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

**Statement 1 is correct.** A key feature of PM E-DRIVE is the provision of demand incentives for EV adoption. The consumer receives the benefit as a reduced purchase price at the point of sale. The manufacturer or Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) subsequently claims reimbursement from the government.

This mechanism reduces the upfront cost burden on consumers.

**Statement 2 is correct.** Rapid Direct Current (DC) fast chargers help address this challenge by delivering electricity directly to the battery at much higher speeds than conventional chargers.

**Statement 3 is correct.** EVs reduce tailpipe emissions, but their overall environmental impact also depends on the source of electricity used for charging. If EVs are charged using electricity generated from fossil fuels, some emissions are merely shifted from the vehicle to the power sector. Solar-powered charging stations help address this issue by increasing the share of renewable energy in EV charging.

Q. Consider the following statements:

1. The services sector accounted for more than half of India's Gross Value Added (GVA) in 2025-26.
2. Agriculture's share in GVA increased between 2022-23 and 2025-26.
3. Manufacturing's share in GVA remained largely unchanged during the period.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: (a) 1 and 3 only**

**Statement 1: Correct.** Services contributed 54.3% of GVA, up from 51.9% in 2022-23, making it the largest contributor to economic output. This reflects the growing importance of sectors such as finance, trade, transport, communication and other services in driving India's growth.

**Statement 2: Incorrect.** Agriculture's share in GVA actually declined from 22.1% in 2022-23 to below 20% in 2025-26, despite continuing to employ the largest share of India's workforce. This reflects the gradual shift of economic output towards services and other sectors.

**Statement 3: Correct.** The data indicate that manufacturing's contribution to GVA remained broadly stagnant rather than showing significant expansion. This suggests that India's value-added manufacturing sector is not growing fast relative to other sectors.